पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा): (क) और (ख) आसाम क्षेत्रों से वर्ष 1992-93 के लिए कच्चे तेल का उत्पादन 5.131 एम एम टी होना अनुमानित है जिसके आधार पर वर्ष 1992-93 में बरौनी रिफाइनरी में इसकी 3.3 एम एम टी संसाधन क्षमता की तुलना में 2.25 एम एम टी कच्चे तेल के संसाधन की आशा की जाती है। चूंकि उत्तर-पूर्व में उत्पादित समस्त कच्चा तेल संसाधित किया जाएगा, अतः क्षति का प्रश्न नहीं उठता है।

(ग) बरौनी रिफाइनरी के लिए कच्चे तेल की आपूर्ति में वृद्धि करने के लिए इंडियन आयल कारपोरेशन ने हल्दिया पोर्ट से बरौनी तक एक नई क्रूड पाइपलाइन बिछाने का प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत किया है।

Distribution Policy of LPG

1137. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) What is the present policy of Distribution of LPG to consumers;

(b) Whether Government propose to engage private bodies/contractors for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the directions issued by Government so that the consumers may not be overcharged/harassed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Presently LPG is being marketed in the country by three oil marketing companies viz. Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Bharat Petroleum Corporation directly to bulk consumers and in packed cylinders through their authorised distributor network to the registered domestic and non-domestic customers. Government recently have allowed import of LPG, its bottling and distribution at market prices by private agencies through a separate network of dealers.

Hike in prices of Petroleum products

1138. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that further "Hike in Petroleum Products' prices is likely" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 19th February, 1993 and that the next year, 1993-94 import bill would be a whopping $6.8 billions;

(b) if so, what is the growth rate of consumption, of petroleum products as well as outflow—of foreign exchange on this account for 1992-93 as compared to 1991-92;

(c) whether it is a fact that even during the current financial year the Indian Oil Corporation, the canalising agency for import for crude petroleum products has been "forced" to buy nearly $700 million from the open market, if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to control further rise in prices of kerosene and LPG indicating the amount of total subsidy on this count given during the current financial year and earmarked for next year as amount of subsidy on LPG supplied for domestic use and kerosene supplied through Public Distribution System; and

(e) if not earmarked, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): There is no proposal at present to increase the prices of petroleum products. The amount of foreign exchange required for 1993-94 will depend on the quantities to be imported and the prevailing international prices.

(b)	Growth rate %	Foreign exchange on products $ million
1991-92	3.3	2022.25
1992-93 (estimate)	4.3	2204.69

(c) Indian rupee has been made fully convertible effective 1.3.1993. As such, all petroleum imports will be made at market rate.

(d) and (e) There is no increase in the prices of kerosene and LPG. The subsidy on the sale of kerosene and LPG (domestic) during the current year is likely to be Rs. 3276 crores and Rs. 1145 crores respectively.

Subsidy for the next year would depend upon the volume of consumption of these products.